

coconut, and renowned for its power of resisting moisture. It is used by the natives of the Indian islands for every purpose of cordage and is known as 'tsongli'. Underneath this material is found a substance of a soft, gossamer-like texture, which is imported into China. It is applied as oakum in caulking the seams of ships, and more generally as tinder for kindling fire, - it is for the latter purpose that it is chiefly in demand among the Chinese. In Malacca, the *gomuti*, there termed 'kabong', is cultivated principally for the juice which it yields for the manufacture of sugar." (Simmonds, Tropical Agriculture, p. 252.) - Although the leaves of this *sugar-palm* were cut back by the fall frost, in Bay City, Fla., the trunk and body were not injured, and the tree is thriving.

Spathodea nilotica (Bignoniaceae), 47502. From Entebbe, Uganda. Seeds presented by the chief forestry officer, Forestry Department. This is a bushy, very beautiful, flowering tree, up to 20 feet in height, native to the Upper Nile Valley and the Belgian Congo. The opposite leaves are made up of 9 to 15 leathery leaflets covered with dense, short hairs beneath. The bright scarlet flowers are borne in short, dense, terminal racemes and resemble closely those of the well-known *S. campanulata*. (Adapted from Thiselton-Dyer, Flora of Tropical Africa, vol. 4, part 2, p. 529.)

"As *S. campanulata* has flowered in south Florida, even though tender, it is to be hoped that *S. nilotica* may prove hardier, and, if really as beautiful, it will be a valuable addition to the ornamentals of that region." (Fairchild.)

Stevia rebaudiana (Asteraceae), 47515. **Kaa-Hee.** From Asuncion, Paraguay. Seeds presented by Mr. H. H. Balch, American consul. "This Paraguayan herb is of peculiar interest because of the remarkable sweetness of the leaves. A fragment placed on the tongue seems as sweet as a lump of sugar of similar size. Several years ago the discovery that this plant, then called Eupatorium, contained a substance many times sweeter than sugar was heralded by the press and excited the keen interest of sugar planters all over the world. The substance turned out to be a glucoside and the anxiety of the sugar interests subsided. Further investigations, however, are now being made with this plant, by biological chemists and dieticians, because of the possibilities of utilizing sweet